

LAKE OROVILLE

KOP MR-1: Nelson Bar Car-top Boat Ramp

Description / Character

The Nelson Bar Car-top Boat Ramp is located at the northern end of the West Branch of Lake Oroville. This non-paved car-top boat ramp is located on the remote western side of the long, narrow and steep West Branch of the reservoir. The steep hillsides are covered in thick vegetation. There is little to no visible development from this KOP other than the ramp-related facilities. This KOP is representative of views that can be experienced at other car-top boat ramps at the ends of branches of the reservoir, such as Vinton Gulch and Dark Canyon.

Number of Viewers

Based on Relicensing Study R-1, this facility receives a low number of visitors.

Rating = 1, Low visitation

Sensitivity of Viewers

Most people visiting and using this site are people launching their boats. Because these people focus on launching-related activities and then leave the area to access other parts of Lake Oroville, their view duration is short and sensitivity rating is considered low (1). Bank anglers and day users also use this area and spend more time in the direct vicinity of the KOP. Their viewing duration is longer and their sensitivity rating is considered moderately high (4). Overall sensitivity is considered average.

Rating = 3, Average sensitivity

Effects of Project Facilities

No Project generation or transmission facilities are visible from this KOP. The only manmade features visible from this KOP are the gravel parking lot, the rock riprap abutment below the parking lot, the non-paved boat ramp/road, and tie-downs used to maintain fish habitat.

Rating = NA

Effect of Project Operations

The view from this location focuses on the cove off of West Branch where the boat ramp is located. At higher reservoir elevations, the waters of the reservoir stretch across the cove and much of the West Branch beyond. The hillside, nearby vegetation, and reservoir are the dominant visual elements during higher pool elevations. As reservoir elevations recede, the reservoir becomes less dominant and the shoreline more dominant. At low reservoir elevations, the cove entered by the boat ramp is dewatered, and the entire the cove becomes dewatered.

- Full pool: At full pool, the water of the reservoir fills the cove this KOP is located next to, and along with the hillsides is the dominant visual

element. At this elevation, the presence of the reservoir has a positive effect on the visual quality of the part of the Project seen from this KOP.

Rating = 5, Positive effect

- Elevation 831'/832': At this elevation, 68 to 69 vertical feet of shoreline is exposed. The exposed shoreline of the cove becomes a dominant visual element that is equal to the water of the reservoir. Horizontal lines along the shoreline are evident and create visual interest as do several rock outcroppings. Some debris is visible along the shoreline. Drawdown of the reservoir to this elevation has a moderately negative effect on the visual quality of the part of the Project seen from this KOP.

Rating = 2, Moderately negative effect

- Elevation 709'/710': At this elevation, the entire cove is dewatered and the exposed shoreline and reservoir bottom become the dominant visual elements. The water of the reservoir is visible in the distance at the end of the valley where the cove is located. Mud, debris (some of which has been anchored as fish habitat), and some emergent vegetation is visible in the foreground. Drawdown of the reservoir to this elevation has a negative effect on the visual quality of the part of the Project seen from this KOP.

Rating = 1, Negative effect

Glare and Lighting

There is no Project-generated lighting or glare visible from this KOP.

Rating = NA

Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway

This KOP is not visible from any designated scenic roadways or vistas.

Rating = NA

Opportunities and Constraints

No recommendations made for this site.

Table B-1: Summary of KOP MR-1: Nelson Bar Car-top Boat Ramp

Concern/Question	Evaluation Summary
Description/character	Remote steep area with little to no development nearby. Unpaved car-top launch area, large new parking lot.
Number of viewers	(1) Low
Sensitivity of viewers	(3) Average
Effects of Project Facilities	NA
Effect of Project operations (reservoir elevation)	Full – (5) Positive 831'/832' – (2) Moderately negative 709'/710' – (1) Negative
Glare and Lighting	NA
Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway	NA
Opportunities and Constraints	No recommendations made.

KOP MR-2: Lime Saddle Boat Ramp

Description / Character

The Lime Saddle Boat Ramp is on the west side of the West Branch of Lake Oroville east of the Lime Saddle Marina. The KOP is in an area of rolling, moderate to steep, thickly vegetated hillsides. West of the boat ramp (and behind the location where the photograph was taken) are two large developed parking areas (the main parking area has 43 single-vehicle parking spaces and 127 vehicle/trailer spaces, while the overflow lot has room for approximately 100 vehicle/trailer spaces). The photograph for this KOP is at the top of the four-lane Lime Saddle Boat Ramp and is representative of views of the Project for people launching boats.

Number of Viewers

The Lime Saddle Boat Ramp is near the Lime Saddle Campground and Marina, which receive a high number of visitors according to the *Vehicular Access Study* (R-1). This four-lane boat ramp typically handles numerous people both launching boats as well as visiting the marina.

Rating = 5, High visitation

Sensitivity of Viewers

In general, most people who use a boat ramp have a short duration view of the Project from that location. Those viewing the Project from near the Lime Saddle Boat Ramp, however, have a moderate duration view because people from other nearby facilities such as day use areas, the campground, or the marina pass near this location and look at the reservoir.

Rating = 3, Average sensitivity

Effects of Project Facilities

No Project generation or transmission facilities are visible from this KOP. The ramp, parked vehicles, marina buildings and facilities, and moored boats are large, manmade features in the foreground of this KOP. Other land-based recreation facilities are visible on the peninsula to the south as well as immediately north of the KOP.

Rating = NA

Effect of Project Operations

The view from this location has a backdrop of moderately to steeply sloped vegetated hillsides. The marina-related facilities and hillside vegetation are dominant visual elements during higher pool elevations. As reservoir elevations recede, they become less dominant. Water is a major visual element from this KOP for most of the year, yet is much more dominant during higher pool elevations due to it being in the immediate foreground. At lower reservoir elevations, the sloping shoreline becomes the more dominant visual element as the marina recedes from view.

- Full pool: The water of the reservoir, the marina facility, and the hillsides are equally dominant visual elements. At full pool, the water of the reservoir is at the vegetation line. At this elevation, the effect of the presence of the reservoir has a positive effect on the visual quality of the part of the Project seen from this KOP. The presence and condition of the extensive marina facilities are the reason a rating of positive (5) was not given.

Rating = 4, Moderately positive effect

- Elevation 831'/832': At this elevation, 68 to 69 vertical feet of shoreline is exposed. At this elevation, the exposed shoreline and boat ramp become an equally dominant visual element along with the others mentioned above at full pool. The exposed shoreline does not contain significant natural or manmade debris, but does contrast with the reservoir and vegetated hillsides. Drawdown of the reservoir to this elevation has a moderately negative effect on the visual quality of the part of the Project seen from this KOP.

Rating = 2, Moderately negative effect

- Elevation 709'/710': At this elevation, much of the side channel where the marina facility is located has been dewatered and extensive areas of the steep shoreline are exposed. The exposed shoreline (and boat ramp) replaces the water of the reservoir and the marina facilities as dominate visual elements. Marina facilities are visible 190 feet below full pool at the end of the boat ramp. Little debris is visible in the exposed shoreline. The extensive amount of exposed shoreline at this elevation dominates the landscape and has a negative effect on the visual quality of the part of the Project seen from this KOP.

Rating = 1, Negative effect

Glare and Lighting

The nearby Lime Saddle Campground produces night-lighting, as do some of the parking areas throughout the Lime Saddle Complex with safety lighting that reaches the boat ramp area. However, lighting has a neutral effect on visual quality.

Rating = 3, Neutral effect

Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway

The top of the Lime Saddle Boat Ramp, and several other nearby areas, can be seen from a short span of Highway 70 (at the Bidwell Bar Bridge). This section of Highway 70 is an eligible scenic highway. Because of the distance between these two locations and the extremely short duration of the view from the bridge, it is difficult to see the Lime Saddle area from the bridge. Therefore, the area where the KOP is located has a neutral effect on the eligible scenic highway.

Rating = 3, Neutral effect

Opportunities and Constraints

No recommendations made.

Table B-2: Summary of KOP MR-2: Lime Saddle Boat Ramp	
Concern/Question	Evaluation Summary
Description/character	Highly developed and altered recreation area with high visitation.
Number of viewers	(5) High
Sensitivity of viewers	(3) Average
Effects of Project Generation – Transmission Facilities	NA
Effect of Project operations (reservoir elevation)	Full – (4) Moderately positive 831'/832' – (2) Moderately negative 709'/710' – (1) Negative
Glare and Lighting	(3) Neutral
Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway	(3) Neutral effect
Opportunities and Constraints	No recommendations made.

KOP MR-3: Lime Saddle Peninsula

Description / Character

This KOP is at the far eastern end of the sparsely vegetated peninsula, within the Lime Saddle Complex. The peninsula is undermaintained and lacks defined walkways. The vertical relief is dramatic, as the steep sloping hillsides and the visual effect of the drawdown of water are in the foreground view of this KOP. Throughout the year, houseboats are visible when looking southeast along the West Branch of Lake Oroville. During low pool elevations, this site sits at a higher elevation than both the access road to the marina/boat ramp and the area used for mooring boats to the north. Located in a middleground - background view to the south, the Highway 70 Bridge spans the West Branch of the reservoir. In general, a large amount of vegetation is visible from this KOP, yet as the water elevation falls, the vegetation becomes less prominent as the exposed shoreline becomes more visually dominant.

Number of Viewers

When the water is below full pool, this area is not clearly distinguished as a recreation area, or viewing point, within the Lime Saddle Complex. Comprised of a couple of old, worn-down picnic tables, with access not easily noticed, this area receives a low number of viewers.

Rating = 1, Low visitation

Sensitivity of Viewers

While the Lime Saddle Complex has many features (including a boat ramp, marina, day use area, and campground) that are highly used and easily accessed, the Lime Saddle Peninsula receives a low number of visitors, most of whom picnic or experience the view for a short duration.

Rating = 2, Moderately low sensitivity

Effects of Project Facilities

No Project generation or transmission facilities are visible from this KOP. The moored boats are the only manmade features visible in the foreground of this KOP. No other land-based recreation facilities are visible from this KOP.

Rating = NA

Effect of Project Operations

- Full pool:
Rating = 5, Positive effect
- Elevation 831'/832':
Rating = 2, Moderately negative effect
- Elevation 709'/710': During low pool elevations, the steep, sloping canyon walls become the dominant visual feature in the viewshed. The proximity

of this KOP to the edge of the reservoir, along with the drawdown in pool elevation, results in a negative effect.

Rating = 1, Negative effect

Glare and Lighting

NA

Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway

The short span of the Highway 70 Bridge (an eligible highway) is visible from the Lime Saddle Peninsula KOP. The distance between these locations, and the short amount of highway visible, contributes to a neutral effect.

Rating = 3, Neutral effect

Opportunities and Constraints

No recommendations made.

Table B-3: Summary of KOP MR-3: Lime Saddle Peninsula	
Concern/Question	Evaluation Summary
Description/character	Underdeveloped recreation site with moderate visitation.
Number of viewers	(1) Low
Sensitivity of viewers	(2) Moderately low
Effects of Project Generation – Transmission Facilities	NA
Effect of Project operations (reservoir elevation)	Full – (5) Positive 831'/832' – (2) Moderately negative 709'/710' – (1) Negative
Glare and Lighting	NA
Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway	(3) Neutral
Opportunities and Constraints	No recommendations made.

KOP MR-4: Foreman Creek Car-top Boat Ramp

Description / Character

The Foreman Creek Car-top Boat Ramp (used for hand launching boats) is located along the northern portion of the main basin of Lake Oroville. The Foreman Creek Car-top Boat Ramp KOP is located on a relatively flat area with little to no vertical relief in the foreground; however, the west and north-facing hillsides are visible in the middleground to background. The view from this KOP is oriented to the south and southwest across the main basin of the reservoir, and includes the reservoir side (back) of Oroville Dam and the Bidwell facilities, both approximately 3 miles away. Due to the relatively flat topography viewed from this KOP, only a minor amount of vegetation is visible, especially during low pool elevations. The KOP selected to represent this area is located along the road used to launch boats.

Number of Viewers

According to the *Vehicular Access Study* (R-1), the Foreman Creek Car-top Boat Ramp receives a medium amount of visitation.

Rating = 2, Moderate visitation

Sensitivity of Viewers

This area accommodates boating, fishing, and swimming. The short duration views experienced by boat launchers in combination with longer duration views possible for day use activities results in an overall medium duration view from this KOP.

Rating = 3, Average sensitivity

Effects of Project Facilities

The backside of the Oroville Dam is the only visible manmade project feature from this KOP. Visible land-based recreation facilities include Bidwell, Kelly Ridge, and the Oroville Dam facilities.

Rating = 3, Neutral effect

Effect of Project Operations

- Full pool: Water is a major visual element at high pool elevations, yet for the majority of the year, water is not in the immediate foreground view.

Rating = 5, Positive effect

- Elevation 831'/832':

Rating = 2, Moderately negative effect

- Elevation 709'/710': The reduction in reservoir level equates to more than a ¾-mile difference in shoreline location at Foreman Creek and has a negative effect.

Rating = 1, Negative effect

Glare and Lighting

NA

Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway

The Foreman Creek Car-top Boat Ramp KOP is not visible from any officially designated scenic roadway, nor does it have a view of any designated scenic vista.

Rating = NA

Opportunities and Constraints

No recommendations made.

Table B-4: Summary of KOP MR-4: Foreman Creek Car-top Boat Ramp	
Concern/Question	Evaluation Summary
Description/character	Underdeveloped car-top boat ramp on the flattest portion of the project area, which receives moderate visitation.
Number of viewers	(2) Moderate
Sensitivity of viewers	(3) Average
Effects of Project Generation – Transmission Facilities	(3) Neutral
Effect of Project operations (reservoir elevation)	Full – (5) Positive 831'/832' – (2) Moderately negative 709'/710' – (1) Negative
Glare and Lighting	NA
Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway	NA
Opportunities and Constraints	No recommendations made.

KOP MR-5: Canyon Creek Bridge

Description / Character

The Canyon Creek Bridge is located where Highway 162 crosses over Canyon Creek. The KOP selected for this location is at the west end of the bridge. This KOP is at an elevated position above the water level, and has a foreground view of steep, sloping hillsides to the south and east. This KOP is one of a few places in the Project area that provides drivers with an unobstructed view over the waters of the Project. The hillsides surrounding this KOP are covered with a dense vegetative cover. This KOP is near one of four highway crossings of Lake Oroville.

Number of Viewers

The Canyon Creek Bridge is located along Highway 162 and receives high usage. According to Caltrans 2000 traffic data, Highway 162 has a peak hour volume of approximately 1,500 vehicles in each direction¹.

Rating = 5, High visitation

Sensitivity of Viewers

Because the Canyon Creek Bridge KOP is along a highway, the duration of view at this location is extremely short.

Rating = 1, Low sensitivity

Effects of Project Facilities

No Project generation or transmission facilities are visible from this KOP. Besides the Canyon Creek Bridge itself, there are no manmade features visible from this KOP. No other land-based recreation facilities are visible from this KOP.

Rating = 1, Low effect

Effect of Project Operations

- Full pool:
Rating = 5, Positive effect
- Elevation 831'/832':
Rating = 3, Moderately negative effect
- Elevation 709'/710': During low pool elevations, almost 200 feet of vertical relief is visible. The drawdown from Lake Oroville leaves this portion of the reservoir completely dry for portions of the year, and has a negative effect.
Rating = 1, Negative effect

¹ Based on Caltrans Annual Daily Traffic (ADT) count information.
(<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/saferesr/trafdata/2000all/r162163i.htm>)

Glare and Lighting

NA

Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway

The section of Highway 162 where this KOP is located is not designated as a scenic roadway, nor are there any officially designated scenic vistas visible from this viewing location.

Rating = NA

Opportunities and Constraints

No recommendations made.

Table B-5: Summary of KOP MR-5: Canyon Creek Bridge	
Concern/Question	Evaluation Summary
Description/character	Bridge crossing over the Project waters that receives high usage.
Number of viewers	(5) High
Sensitivity of viewers	(1) Low
Effects of Project Generation – Transmission Facilities	NA
Effect of Project operations (reservoir elevation)	Full – (5) Positive 831'/832' – (2) Moderately negative 709'/710' – (1) Negative
Glare and Lighting	NA
Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway	NA
Opportunities and Constraints	No recommendations made.

KOP MR-6: Bidwell Bar Bridge (Highway 162)

Description / Character

The Bidwell Bar Bridge is located where Highway 162 crosses over the Middle Fork of Lake Oroville. The KOP selected for this area is located at the turnout on the north side of the bridge. This KOP is open and provides panoramic views of the main body of the reservoir, the entrance to the Middle and South Fork arms of the reservoir, and the bridge itself. The Kelly Ridge residential area, the Bidwell Canyon Marina, and Bidwell Boat Ramp facilities are visible in the background to the southwest. The main basin of the reservoir encompasses the majority of the viewshed. The densely vegetated hillside south of the bridge is visible in the foreground view. The Bidwell Bar Bridge is one of only four bridges that cross the reservoir, yet this is the only one which provides a view of the main basin of the reservoir. This view is similar to that experienced by people driving over the bridge.

Number of Viewers

According to Caltrans traffic data, this KOP location along Highway 162 receives a high number of viewers; approximately 1,900 peak hour vehicles in each direction.²

Rating = 5, High visitation

Sensitivity of Viewers

Even though this KOP is located at the pull-out area on the west side of the Bidwell Bar Bridge, the view is representative of what is seen by those on Highway 162. It is assumed that the vast majority of people who experience this view do so via the roadway and not the pull-out viewing area; therefore, a short duration view is representative for this KOP.

Rating = 1, Low sensitivity

Effects of Project Facilities

Rating = 3, Neutral effect

Effect of Project Operations

- Full pool:
Rating = 5, Positive effect
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² (<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/saferesr/trafdata/2000all/r162163i.htm>)

Elevation 831'/832':

Rating = 2, Moderately negative effect

- Elevation 709'/710': During low pool, the water becomes less of a dominant visual element and the exposed shoreline becomes more prominent.

Rating = 1, Negative effect

Glare and Lighting

NA

Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway

The section of Highway 162 where this KOP is located is not designated as a scenic roadway, nor are there any officially designated scenic vistas visible from this viewing location.

Rating = NA

Opportunities and Constraints

No recommendations made.

Table B-6: Summary of KOP MR-6: Bidwell Bar Bridge (Highway 162)	
Concern/Question	Evaluation Summary
Description/character	Bridge crossing that shows the main basin and receives high usage.
Number of viewers	(5) High
Sensitivity of viewers	(1) Low
Effects of Project Generation – Transmission Facilities	(3) Neutral
Effect of Project operations (reservoir elevation)	Full – (5) Positive 831'/832' – (2) Moderately negative 709'/710' – (1) Negative
Glare and Lighting	NA
Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway	NA
Opportunities and Constraints	No recommendations made.

KOP MR-7: Stringtown Car-top Boat Ramp

Description / Character

The Stringtown Car-top Boat Ramp is located on the moderately sloping south bank of the South Fork. This location has difficult access, requiring traveling on the narrow, windy Stringtown Road. The KOP selected to represent this area is adjacent to the road used to launch boats. The view from this KOP is typical of those along the South Fork. The view from the Stringtown Car-top Boat Ramp KOP shows a large amount of vertical relief. Steeply sloping hillsides are visible in the foreground to the north as well as in the background to the northeast. Dense vegetation covers the majority of hillsides in the middle to background views. The sparsely vegetated island in the foreground to the northeast, and barren areas at the edge of the high water line provide visual contrast. Shoreline exposed in this area has interesting form and color, as exhibited in Appendix A.

Number of Viewers

According to the *Vehicular Access Study* (R-1), the Stringtown Car-top Boat Ramp receives a moderate amount of annual visitation. The amount of visitation at this site varies highly at different pool elevations.

Rating = 3, Moderate visitation

Sensitivity of Viewers

This area accommodates boating, fishing, and swimming. The short duration views of boat launchers, combined with longer duration views possible due to day use activities, result in an overall medium duration view from this KOP.

Rating = 3, Average sensitivity

Effects of Project Facilities

No Project generation or transmission facilities are visible from this KOP.

Rating = NA

Effect of Project Operations

Being toward the end of the South Fork, this area's view changes with drawdown of the reservoir. At high pool elevations, water is the most dominant visual feature, whereas during low pool elevations, it is barely visible.

- Full pool: The KOP viewing location shown in Appendix A is not accessible during high (full) pool elevations.
Rating = 5, Positive effect
- Elevation 831'/832':
Rating = 3, Neutral due to interesting and colorful exposed shoreline.
- Elevation 709'/710':
Rating = 1, Negative due to decrease in amount of water that is viewed.

Glare and Lighting

NA

Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway

This KOP is not visible from any designated scenic roadway, nor has views of any designated scenic vista.

Rating = NA

Opportunities and Constraints

No recommendations made.

Table B-7: Summary of KOP MR-7: Stringtown Car-top Boat Ramp	
Concern/Question	Evaluation Summary
Description/character	Undeveloped recreation site with moderate visitation.
Number of viewers	(3) Moderate
Sensitivity of viewers	(3) Average
Effects of Project Generation – Transmission Facilities	NA
Effect of Project operations (reservoir elevation)	Full – (5) Positive 831'/832' – (3) Neutral 709'/710' – (1) Negative
Glare and Lighting	NA
Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway	NA
Opportunities and Constraints	No recommendations made.

KOP MR-8: Bidwell Canyon Boat Ramp

Description / Character

The Bidwell Canyon Boat Ramp is immediately north of the Bidwell Marina on the eastern side of Kelly Ridge. The KOP selected to represent views from this area is located in the middle of the boat ramp. The boat ramp can be accessed by car, and there is a large parking lot that accommodates vehicles and trailers. The Bidwell Canyon Boat Ramp is a steeply sloping, large concrete ramp visible throughout the main basin of the reservoir. The view from this KOP includes a large amount of vertical relief, mainly to the north/northeast. The exposed shoreline does not dominate the viewshed from this KOP, yet it is clearly visible and a major visual element. The expansive view from this KOP clearly shows the visual impact that the exposed shoreline has on Lake Oroville. The hilltops immediately east and west of the boat ramp are covered with dense vegetation, whereas the main hillside to the northeast visible from this KOP is more sparsely vegetated. The view from this KOP is similar to that from the Bidwell Complex during high pool elevations, yet when over 100 feet of reservoir drawdown occurs, this view becomes highly unique, showing the massive extent of the six-lane boat ramp and how far it extends down.

Number of Viewers

According to the *Vehicular Access Study* (R-1), the Bidwell Canyon Boat Ramp receives a high amount of visitation.

Rating = 5, High visitation

Sensitivity of Viewers

Due to this KOP being at the top of a highly used boat launch, there is little time for extended duration views. In general, the duration of view from this KOP is short.

Rating = 3, Average sensitivity

Effects of Project Facilities

No Project generation or transmission facilities are visible from this KOP.

Rating = NA

Effect of Project Operations

- Full pool: Water is a dominant visual element from this KOP, especially during high pool elevations.
Rating = 5, Positive effect
- Elevation 831'/832':
Rating = 2, Moderately negative effect
- Elevation 709'/710': Water is a dominant visual element from this KOP during low pool elevations.

Rating = 1, Negative effect

Glare and Lighting

NA

Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway

The Bidwell Canyon Boat Ramp is not visible from any designated scenic roadway, nor does it have a view of any designated scenic vista.

Rating = NA

Opportunities and Constraints

No recommendations made.

Table B-8: Summary of KOP MR-8: Bidwell Canyon Boat Ramp	
Concern/Question	Evaluation Summary
Description/character	Massive boat ramp that receives high usage.
Number of viewers	(5) High
Sensitivity of viewers	(3) Average
Effects of Project Generation – Transmission Facilities	NA
Effect of Project operations (reservoir elevation)	Full – (5) Positive 831'/832' – (2) Moderately negative 709'/710' – (1) Negative
Glare and Lighting	NA
Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway	NA
Opportunities and Constraints	No recommendations made.

KOP MR-9: Bidwell Canyon Marina

Description / Character

The highly utilized Bidwell Canyon Marina is located on the eastern side of Kelly Ridge. The marina is part of the larger Bidwell Complex that includes the marina boat ramp, a developed overnight campground, trails, and a boat ramp. The KOP is adjacent to the steep sloping parking lot, which provides access for vehicles and people down to the marina. The view from this KOP shows a large amount of vertical relief during low pool elevations, yet much of the hillsides are screened by the marina facilities at high pool elevations. The hilltops to the east are covered with dense vegetation. The distant hillside to the northeast is barren compared to what is visible in the middleground to the east. This KOP provides a view that is somewhat unique, as it shows the highly developed Bidwell Marina in the immediate foreground, while other views such as Loafer Creek and Lime Saddle provide similar views.

Number of Viewers

The Bidwell Complex is the most highly used facility in the Project area, and according to the *Vehicular Access Study* (R-1), the Bidwell Canyon Marina receives a high amount of visitation.

Rating = 5, High visitation

Sensitivity of Viewers

The Bidwell Canyon Marina is an area where visitors experience moderate duration views. Many visitors using the campgrounds experience the view from the KOP on their way to the marina.

Rating = 3, Average sensitivity

Effects of Project Facilities

No Project generation or transmission facilities are visible from this KOP. Of all the KOPs around Lake Oroville, this one shows the greatest amount of manmade development (recreational, yet more of a commercial feel). The other land-based recreation facility visible from this KOP is Loafer Creek.

Rating = 2, Moderately negative effect

Effect of Project Operations

This KOP is close to the water, even during low pool elevations; therefore, water is a constant visual presence; yet the Bidwell Marina Complex is massive and draws the visual attention away from the water itself.

- Full pool:

The presence and condition of the marina facilities are the reason a rating of positive (5) was not given.

Rating = 4, Moderately positive effect.

- Elevation 831'/832':
Rating = 2, Moderately negative effect
- Elevation 709'/710': The view from this KOP shows a large amount of vertical relief during low pool elevations. Like all KOPs around the reservoir, the exposed shoreline is highly visible from this site during low pool elevations. The amount of marina development in the foreground view effectively takes some of the focus away from the exposed shoreline itself.
Rating = 1, Negative effect

Glare and Lighting

NA

Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway

The Bidwell Canyon Marina is not visible from any designated scenic roadway, nor does it have a view of any designated scenic vista.

Rating = NA

Opportunities and Constraints

No recommendations made.

Table B-9: Summary of KOP MR-9: Bidwell Canyon Marina	
Concern/Question	Evaluation Summary
Description/character	Highly developed and altered recreation area with high visitation.
Number of viewers	(5) High
Sensitivity of viewers	(3) Average
Effects of Project Generation – Transmission Facilities	(2) Moderately negative
Effect of Project operations (reservoir elevation)	Full – (4) Moderately positive 831'/832' – (2) Moderately negative 709'/710' – (1) Negative
Glare and Lighting	NA
Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway	NA
Opportunities and Constraints	No recommendations made.

KOP MR-10: Bidwell Canyon Cove to South

Description / Character

The Bidwell Canyon Cove to South is located south of the main basin of the reservoir. The Bidwell Canyon Cove to South KOP is accessed via the western edge of the Loafer Creek Boat Ramp, while a similar view can be accessed by the Bidwell Complex trail system to the west. This KOP shows an expansive view of the southernmost portion of Lake Oroville, which holds the majority of houseboats moored at the Bidwell Marina Complex. The Kelly Ridge hillside/hilltop is residentially developed, yet also appears thickly vegetated (mainly residential landscaping). This KOP is representative of views from major Project facilities (Loafer Creek and Bidwell) looking south toward the cove. The Kelly Ridge development (outside of the Project area) in the viewshed provides a unique view.

Number of Viewers

The Bidwell Complex is the most highly used facility in the Project area according to the *Vehicular Access Study* (R-1), and it is likewise assumed that the Bidwell Canyon Cove to South KOP receives a high amount of visitation.

Rating = 5, High visitation

Sensitivity of Viewers

This KOP is visible from the trail along the eastern edge of the Bidwell Complex. When walking along this trail, the southern view is visible for an extended duration. Similarly, when viewing this area from the edge of the Loafer Creek Boat Ramp, moderate duration views are possible. However, no benches or sitting areas are present to allow for extended duration views at either site.

Rating = 3, Average sensitivity

Effects of Project Facilities

No Project generation or transmission facilities are visible from this KOP.

Rating = NA

Effect of Project Operations

- Full pool: At high pool elevations, water is the most dominant visual feature in the viewshed. During full pool, there are few visible hillsides (Kelly Ridge). The presence and condition of the marina are the reason a rating of positive (5) was not given.

Rating = 4, Moderately positive effect

- Elevation 831'/832':

Rating = 3, Neutral effect

- Elevation 709'/710':

Rating = 1, Negative effect

Glare and Lighting

Rating = NA

Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway

The Bidwell Canyon Cove to South area is not visible from any designated scenic roadway, nor does it have a view of any designated scenic vista.

Rating = NA

Opportunities and Constraints

No recommendations made.

Table B-10: Summary of KOP MR-10: Bidwell Canyon Cove to South	
Concern/Question	Evaluation Summary
Description/character	Area filled with moored houseboats viewed from both the Bidwell and Loafer Recreation Areas.
Number of viewers	(5) High
Sensitivity of viewers	(3) Average
Effects of Project Generation – Transmission Facilities	NA
Effect of Project operations (reservoir elevation)	Full – (4) Moderately positive 831'/832' – (3) Neutral 709'/710' – (1) Negative
Glare and Lighting	NA
Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway	NA
Opportunities and Constraints	No recommendations made.

KOP MR-11: Loafer Creek Boat Ramp

Description / Character

The Loafer Creek Boat Ramp is located on the eastern edge of the greater Loafer Creek Recreation Area. The KOP selected to represent this area is located in the middle of the boat ramp. This recreation area is located on the east side of the cove across from the Bidwell Complex. The boat ramp can be assessed either by car or by trail. A large, paved parking lot at the top of the steeply sloping 7-lane boat ramp accommodates 178 vehicle /trailer combinations. Vertical relief is clearly visible in the foreground to the west as well as in the background view to the north of this KOP. Water is a major visual element from this KOP because of the expansive views of the main basin of the reservoir. Vegetation visible from this KOP is present in the immediate foreground, especially northeast of the boat ramp. There is an expansive view of the main basin from this KOP.

Number of Viewers

According to the *Vehicular Access Study* (R-1), the Loafer Creek Boat Ramp receives a high amount of annual visitation. This boat ramp is one of three major launching facilities around the main reservoir (Bidwell and Lime Saddle are the others).

Rating = 5, High visitation

Sensitivity of Viewers

Due to this KOP being located at the top of a highly used boat ramp, extended duration views are not typical. In general, the duration of view from this KOP is short.

Rating = 1, Low sensitivity

Effects of Project Facilities

No Project generation or transmission facilities are visible from this KOP.

Rating = NA

Effect of Project Operations

- Full pool: Above full pool elevation line, dense vegetation exists on all visible hillsides.

Rating = 5, Positive effect

- Elevation 831'/832':

Rating = 2, Moderately negative effect

- Elevation 709'/710': The expansive, distant view from this KOP shows extensive exposed shoreline.

Rating = 1, Negative effect

Glare and Lighting

NA

Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway

The Loafer Creek Boat Ramp KOP is not visible from any designated scenic roadway, nor does it have a view of any designated scenic vista.

Rating = NA

Opportunities and Constraints

No recommendations made.

Table B-11: Summary of KOP MR-10: Bidwell Canyon Cove to South	
Concern/Question	Evaluation Summary
Description/character	Highly developed boat ramp with high visitation.
Number of viewers	(5) High
Sensitivity of viewers	(1) Low
Effects of Project Generation – Transmission Facilities	NA
Effect of Project operations (reservoir elevation)	Full – (5) Positive 831'/832' – (2) Moderately negative 709'/710' – (1) Negative
Glare and Lighting	NA
Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway	NA
Opportunities and Constraints	No recommendations made.

KOP MR-12: Lake Oroville Visitors Center Tower

Description / Character

The Lake Oroville Visitors Center is directly east of the Oroville Dam atop a large, highly developed peninsula (Kelly Ridge) that extends into the main basin of the reservoir. Oroville Dam Road provides access to the Visitors Center. The KOP is on the top floor (4th) of the observation tower, which is located near the center of the Visitors Center. A 360° view is possible from this viewing area. The elevated viewing location allows for distant views, which encompass both the highly vegetated steep sloping hillsides above the reservoir, and a small portion of the agricultural flat valley land to the southwest. The main basin of the reservoir is visible from this KOP. This KOP is unique because it provides the most expansive views of the Project area. No other KOP provides as extensive views as this KOP.

Number of Viewers

According to the *Vehicular Access Study* (R-1), the Lake Oroville Visitors Center receives high annual visitation. However, these figures are based on large field trips visiting this KOP. In general, there is a moderate amount of visitation that occurs at this facility when field trips are not weighed into the calculations.

Rating = 3, Moderate visitation

Sensitivity of Viewers

The KOP at the Lake Oroville Visitors Center tower was selected for its expansive and far-reaching views; therefore, it is assumed that visitors would spend an extended duration experiencing these views. This KOP requires getting out of the vehicle and deliberately climbing the tower to experience the view.

Rating = 5, High sensitivity

Effects of Project Facilities

Both Project generation and transmission facilities are visible from this KOP. The Oroville Dam and Spillway facilities are visible in the foreground to the west, and while other manmade features are also visible from this KOP, they are in the distant background view to the southwest.

Rating = 2, Moderately negative effect

Effect of Project Operations

- Full pool:
Rating = 5, Positive effect
- Elevation 831'/832':
Rating = 3, Neutral effect

- Elevation 709'/710': Due to the distance from this KOP to the shoreline and the numerous other visual features that can be seen, this reservoir elevation has a moderately negative effect (2) rather than a neutral effect (3).

Rating = 2, Moderately negative effect

Glare and Lighting

NA

Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway

The Lake Oroville Visitors Center KOP is not visible from any designated scenic roadway, nor does it have a view of any designated scenic vista.

Rating = NA

Opportunities and Constraints

No recommendations made.

Table B-12: Summary of KOP MR-12: Lake Oroville Visitors Center Tower	
Concern/Question	Evaluation Summary
Description/character	Outlook tower located in the official Lake Oroville Visitors Center.
Number of viewers	(3) Moderate
Sensitivity of viewers	(5) High
Effects of Project Generation – Transmission Facilities	(2) Moderately negative
Effect of Project operations (reservoir elevation)	Full – (5) Positive 831'/832' – (3) Neutral 709'/710' – (2) Moderately negative
Glare and Lighting	NA
Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway	NA
Opportunities and Constraints	No recommendations made.

KOP MR-13: Oroville Dam Visitors Area – East Side

Description / Character

The Oroville Dam Visitors Area is located where Oroville Dam Road intersects with the eastern edge of the Oroville Dam. This recreation facility contains picnic tables, benches, a permanent restroom, a safety guardrail, and an elevated viewing area. The view from the Oroville Dam Visitors Area – East Side KOP is expansive, with a large amount of vertical relief in the foreground and background. Dense vegetation is visible on the hillsides and hilltops across the main basin. This KOP provides a view that is representative of those facing the open area of the expansive main basin.

Number of Viewers

According to the *Vehicular Access Study* (R-1), the Oroville Dam Visitors Area – East Side receives a high amount of annual usage. A small (less than 5 cars) pull-out area, as well as parking along the eastern edge of Oroville Dam Road, allows pedestrians to experience this KOP. Those driving over Oroville Dam would experience the view from this KOP when along the eastern portion.

Rating = 5, High visitation

Sensitivity of Viewers

Because the KOP is experienced by both vehicular as well as pedestrian users, medium duration views result.

Rating = 3, Moderate sensitivity

Effects of Project Facilities

The Oroville Dam is immediately adjacent to this KOP. Other visible manmade include the Spillway Boat Ramp to the west, and the water pump, immediately north. The Spillway recreation area to the west is the only visible land-based recreation facility.

Rating = 2, Moderately negative effect

Effect of Project Operations

- Full pool:
Rating = 5, Positive effect
- Elevation 831'/832':
Rating = 3, Neutral effect
- Elevation 709'/710': Even at low pool elevations, water is visible in the viewshed from this KOP. The exposed shoreline is clearly visible during low pool elevations, yet it is not a major visual element from this KOP.
Rating = 1, Negative effect

Glare and Lighting

Overhead lighting is present alongside the road atop Oroville Dam (over 1 mile in length and influences the night-time view from this KOP.

Rating = 2, Moderately negative effect

Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway

The Oroville Dam Visitors Area – East Side KOP is not visible from any designated scenic roadway, nor does it have a view of any designated scenic vista.

Rating = NA

Opportunities and Constraints

No recommendations made.

Table B-13: Summary of KOP MR-13: Oroville Dam Visitors Area – East Side	
Concern/Question	Evaluation Summary
Description/character	Small, yet developed recreation site with high visitation.
Number of viewers	(5) High
Sensitivity of viewers	(3) Average
Effects of Project Generation – Transmission Facilities	(2) Moderately negative
Effect of Project operations (reservoir elevation)	Full – (5) Positive 831’/832’ – (3) Neutral 709’/710’ – (1) Negative
Glare and Lighting	(2) Moderately negative
Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway	NA
Opportunities and Constraints	No recommendation made.

KOP MR-14: Spillway Boat Ramp

Description / Character

The Spillway Boat Ramp is located northwest of the Oroville Dam, and access requires crossing the dam. The KOP selected to represent this recreation area is at the northeast corner of the upper boat ramp. The view from the Spillway Boat Ramp KOP shows above-average vertical relief in the foreground view. The hillsides to the north are covered with dense vegetation. Water is visible most of the year at this KOP.

Number of Viewers

According to the *Vehicular Access Study* (R-1), the Spillway Boat Ramp receives a high amount of use. The Spillway Boat Ramp and Day Use Area were recently upgraded and have considerable space and amenities.

Rating = 5, High visitation

Sensitivity of Viewers

Both those launching boats as well as those using the recreation facilities at the Spillway Recreation Complex can experience the view from this KOP, therefore resulting in a medium duration view.

Rating = 3, Average sensitivity

Effects of Project Facilities

The Oroville Dam is immediately east of this KOP (but out of view of the photographs in Appendix A). Besides the boat ramp and parking lot (which is under water for part of the year), permanent recreation facilities are visible (year round) in the foreground view to the west. No other land-based recreation facilities are visible from this KOP.

Rating = 2, Moderately negative effect

Effect of Project Operations

Like the Canyon Creek Bridge KOP, this KOP is one of the few locations with a high presence of water visible during high pool elevations, and no water visible during low pool elevations.

- Full pool:
Rating = 5, Positive effect
- Elevation 831'/832':
Rating = 2, Moderately negative effect
- Elevation 709'/710': With the drop in water elevation to the point where water is no longer visible, the shoreline becomes more visually dominant. At low pool elevations, a paved parking lot and second boat launching ramp are usable (they are submerged at high pool elevations).
Rating = 1, Negative effect

Glare and Lighting

While only one Project light is visible from this KOP, both the lights associated with the Spillway parking lot and recreation area, as well as the overhead lights atop the Oroville Dam influence the night-time views from this location.

Rating = 3, Neutral effect

Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway

The Spillway Boat Ramp KOP is not visible from any designated scenic roadway, nor does it have a view of any designated scenic vista.

Rating = NA

Opportunities and Constraints

No recommendations made.

Table B-14: Summary of KOP MR-14: Spillway Boat Ramp	
Concern/Question	Evaluation Summary
Description/character	New, highly developed recreation area with high visitation.
Number of viewers	(5) High
Sensitivity of viewers	(3) Average
Effects of Project Generation – Transmission Facilities	(2) Moderately negative
Effect of Project operations (reservoir elevation)	Full – (5) Positive 831'/832' – (2) Moderately negative 709'/710' – (1) Negative
Glare and Lighting	(3) Neutral
Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway	NA
Opportunities and Constraints	No recommendations made.

THERMALITO DIVERSION POOL AND FOREBAY

KOP TD-1: Oroville Dam Road

Description / Character

The Oroville Dam Road pull-out area is directly south of the Oroville Dam Spillway. The KOP selected to represent this area is on the shoulder of Oroville Dam Road. This undeveloped, informal, unpaved pull-out has room for several vehicles. Next to the pull-out is a trailhead to the Dan Beebe Trail along with the trail which provides access from the pull-out area to the Feather River below. The Oroville Dam Road KOP shows a large amount of vertical relief in the immediate foreground. Vegetation makes up the majority of the view from this KOP yet is not as dense as what is found on the hillsides surrounding the reservoir. The only time water is visible from this location is when the emergency spillway is being used. These rare events usually draw substantial public attention. The view shown by this KOP is common along the windy portion of Oroville Dam Road as it nears the Oroville Dam, with the exception of an almost unobstructed view of the spillway structure. There are only a few pull-out spots along Oroville Dam Road with a clear view of the spillway.

Number of Viewers

Oroville Dam Road is one of two major access roads to the Kelly Ridge residential area, the Bidwell Recreation Complex, and for those wishing to drive across Oroville Dam; it therefore receives a high amount of use. Everyone driving on this portion of the roadway would experience the view shown in this KOP.

Rating = 5, High visitation

Sensitivity of Viewers

The vast majority of people who experience this view do not stop along Oroville Dam Road and, therefore, have a short exposure. However, the duration of view at this KOP can range from very short (those simply driving past), to long (those visiting the pull-out area where this KOP is located). Oroville Dam Road is windy as it goes along the canyon wall, and has substantial amounts of vegetative screening to the north, thereby reducing the duration view that is possible.

Rating = 2, Moderately low sensitivity

Effects of Project Facilities

The Oroville Dam structure is highly visible.

Rating = 1, Negative

Effect of Project Operations

Rating = NA

Glare and Lighting

The night-lighting visible from this KOP comes from the Oroville Dam facility to the north. Oroville Dam has lights that span the length of the structure.

Rating = 2, Moderately negative effect

Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway

The Oroville Dam Road KOP is not located along or in view of a designated scenic roadway, nor does it have a view of any designated scenic vista.

Rating = NA

Opportunities and Constraints

None recommended.

Table B-15: Summary of KOP TD-1: Oroville Dam Road	
Concern/Question	Evaluation Summary
Description/character	Pull-out along Oroville Dam Road with a clear view of the spillway.
Number of viewers	(3) High
Sensitivity of viewers	(2) Moderately low
Effects of Project Generation – Transmission Facilities	(1) Negative
Effect of Project operations (reservoir elevation)	NA
Glare and Lighting	(2) Moderately negative
Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway	NA
Opportunities and Constraints	None recommended.

KOP TD-2: Diversion Pool Day Use Area

Description / Character

The Diversion Pool Day Use Area is located alongside the north-south portion of the road that is adjacent to the Diversion Pool, approximately 1/2 mile north of the Diversion Dam structure. The opposite bank of the Diversion Pool is a vegetated slope that provides vertical relief in the view from this KOP.

Vegetation covers the majority of the bank and is only void from areas where the steepness of the slope is too great. Water is the main visual element from this KOP, and the calmness of this water draws attention to it. The mirror-like reflection off the water provides a unique viewing experience as it looks and feels natural; however, it is manipulated by the manmade Diversion Dam and Channel. Located to the south, the Diversion Pool Dam is the only manmade feature visible from this KOP, but it does not significantly detract from the visual quality of the view.

Number of Viewers

According to the *Vehicular Access Study* (R-1), the Diversion Pool Day Use Area receives a low amount of visitation. This unpaved dirt road typically handles a low number of people both launching car-top boats, as well as hiking on trails.

Rating = 1, Low visitation

Sensitivity of Viewers

The Diversion Pool Day Use Area is undeveloped and is primarily an access road to a car-top boat “put-in” and trails to the north. The viewers of this KOP are in vehicles traveling along the unpaved access road, which would represent a short duration view.

Rating = 3, Average sensitivity

Effects of Project Facilities

The Thermalito Diversion Dam is visible to the south of this KOP under the Union Pacific railroad bridge. Project transmission lines are visible behind (i.e., to the north) the direction from which this photograph was taken. The lines are highly visible and contrast with the rest of the visible landscape.

Rating = 1, Negative effect (for transmission line)

Rating = 2, Moderately negative effect (for Diversion Dam)

Effect of Project Operations

The presence of the Diversion Pool waters is an aesthetically and visually positive element of the visible area of this KOP. Reservoir fluctuations of up to 3.5 feet expose the shoreline at times, somewhat diminishing the aesthetic/visual quality of the area.

Rating = 4, Moderately positive effect

Glare and Lighting Associated With the Project

There is no lighting associated with the Diversion Pool Day Use Area.

Rating = NA

Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway

The Diversion Pool Day Use Area is not located along a designated scenic roadway, nor does it have a view of any designated scenic vista.

Rating = NA

Opportunities and Constraints

Painting the portable restroom structure or getting one that is a more neutral color would slightly improve the visual quality of this area.

Table B-16: Summary of KOP TD-2: Diversion Pool Day Use Area	
Concern/Question	Evaluation Summary
Description/character	Small-scale recreation site next to scenic Diversion Pool with minimal development and low number of visitors.
Number of viewers	(1) Low
Sensitivity of viewers	(3) Average
Effects of Project Generation – Transmission Facilities	(1) Negative effect for transmission lines (2) Moderately negative effect for Diversion Dam
Effect of Project operations (reservoir elevation)	(4) Moderately positive effect
Glare and Lighting Associated With the Project	NA
Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway	NA
Opportunities and Constraints	Consider painting or new color restroom.

KOP TD-3: North Thermalito Forebay Recreation Area

Description / Character

The North Thermalito Forebay Recreation Area is located directly west of Highway 70 and is accessed via the Garden Drive exit. The KOP is located immediately next to the outdoor shower pole on the northeastern side of the swim area. The recreation area contains two 2-lane boat ramps, parking for 59 single vehicles (and unpaved overflow parking area), and permanent restroom facilities. Visible vegetation includes shade trees, which act as a buffer between the Forebay swimming area and the recreation / greenbelt area to the east, and a grassy day use area. Water is a major visual element in the view from this KOP. This viewshed is similar to others around the Thermalito Forebay, yet others do not show as much recreation development. The manmade features include recreation facilities such as: beach shower poles; a paved walkway; and an irrigated lawn with shade trees, picnic tables, and horseshoe pits.

Number of Viewers

According to the *Vehicular Access Study* (R-1), the North Thermalito Forebay Recreation Area receives a high amount of annual visitation.

Rating = 5, High visitation

Sensitivity of Viewers

The North Thermalito Forebay Recreation Area is a highly developed recreation site with several activities available; therefore, it is assumed that people visiting this location have extended duration views.

Rating = 4, Moderately high sensitivity

Effects of Project Facilities

No Project generation or transmission facilities are visible from this KOP.

Rating = NA

Effect of Project Operations

The presence of the Forebay waters is an aesthetically and visually positive element of the seen area of this KOP. Reservoir fluctuations of up to 3.5 feet do expose shoreline and at times somewhat diminish the aesthetic/visual quality of the area.

Rating = 4, Moderately positive effect

Glare and Lighting Associated With the Project

Project lighting at the North Thermalito Forebay consists primarily of lighting at the parking lot behind the direction of the photograph taken for this KOP.

Rating = 3, Neutral effect

Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway

The North Thermalito Forebay Recreation Area KOP is near Highway 70, which is a designated scenic roadway several miles north of this location.

Rating = NA

Opportunities and Constraints

No recommendations made.

Table B-17: Summary of KOP TD-3: North Thermalito Forebay Recreation Area	
Concern/Question	Evaluation Summary
Description/character	Highly developed and popular recreation area.
Number of viewers	(5) High
Sensitivity of viewers	(4) Moderately high
Effects of Project Generation – Transmission Facilities	NA
Effect of Project operations (reservoir elevation)	(4) Moderately positive effect
Glare and Lighting	(3) Neutral effect
Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway	NA
Opportunities and Constraints	No recommendations made.

KOP TD-4: South Thermalito Forebay Recreation Area

Description / Character

The South Thermalito Forebay Recreation Area is located at the south part of the Thermalito Forebay and is reached via an unimproved access road from Grand Avenue. The KOP is located on the northern side of the recreation area, at the base of a peninsula that extends over 100 feet east into the Forebay. The area contains a 2-lane boat ramp, small beach, picnic facilities, and a 60 by 60-yard gravel parking area. The view from the South Thermalito Forebay Recreation Area KOP shows essentially no vertical relief. The vegetation visible from this KOP includes less than 10 shade trees, and a row of small shrubs next to the boat ramp. Water is a major component of the viewshed from this KOP. The manmade features visible from this KOP include the boat ramp, the small recreation area to the east with picnic tables and barbeques, and the dam (levee) to the south.

Number of Viewers

According to the *Vehicular Access Study* (R-1), the South Thermalito Forebay Recreation Area receives an average amount of visitation.

Rating = 3, Moderate visitation

Sensitivity of Viewers

The South Thermalito Forebay Recreation Area is a developed recreation site with several activities available; therefore, it is assumed that the people that visit this location have extended duration views.

Rating = 4, Moderately high sensitivity

Effects of Project Facilities

The Thermalito Forebay Dam can be viewed in the foreground next to this KOP as a low unvegetated levee. It has a moderately negative effect.

Rating = 2, Moderately negative effect

Effect of Project Operations

The presence of the Forebay waters is an aesthetically and visually positive element of the seen area of this KOP. Reservoir fluctuations of up to 3.5 feet do expose shoreline and at times somewhat diminish the aesthetic/visual quality of the area.

Rating = 4, Moderately positive effect

Glare and Lighting

There is no lighting at the South Thermalito Forebay Recreation Area or other Project lighting seen from the KOP.

Rating = NA

Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway

The South Thermalito Forebay Recreation Area is not within the viewshed of designated or eligible scenic roadways.

Rating = NA

Opportunities and Constraints

No recommendations made.

Table B-18: Summary of KOP TD-4: South Thermalito Forebay Recreation Area	
Concern/Question	Evaluation Summary
Description/character	Small, somewhat developed recreation site.
Number of viewers	(3) Moderate
Sensitivity of viewers	(4) Moderately high
Effects of Project Generation – Transmission Facilities	(2) Moderately negative effect
Effect of Project operations (reservoir elevation)	(4) Moderately positive effect
Glare and Lighting	NA
Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway	NA
Opportunities and Constraints	No recommendations made.

THERMALITO AFTERBAY

KOP TA-1: Larkin Road Thermalito Afterbay Car-top Boat Ramp

Description / Character

The Larkin Road facility is located west of Larkin Road along the east side of the Thermalito Afterbay. The KOP is located on the southern end of the paved parking / boat launching area. This site consists of a small paved area used to launch boats and a restroom facility on the northern end of the paved lot. The westward view from this KOP shows the flat topography of the Sacramento Valley to the west. A variety of vegetation is noticeable throughout the view, especially on the island directly southwest of the boat ramp area. Water is the main visual element in the viewshed, as a good portion of the Thermalito Afterbay is visible in the foreground view. The view from this KOP is common to most areas surrounding the Thermalito Afterbay, but it is one of only three designated recreation sites along the shore of the Afterbay. The manmade features visible from this KOP are all associated with the recreation site, and include the paved parking lot and tall poles with informational signs (there is also a developed restroom immediately to the east).

Number of Viewers

According to the *Vehicular Access Study* (R-1), the Larkin Road Thermalito Afterbay Car-top Boat Ramp receives an average amount of annual visitation.

Rating = 3, Moderate visitation

Sensitivity of Viewers

The Larkin Road Thermalito Afterbay Car-top Boat Ramp KOP is located in the small paved parking lot of a mainly undeveloped recreation area. Launching boats or personal watercraft (PWC) into the Thermalito Afterbay is the most common activity at this location, and therefore there is little time to experience the view from this KOP.

Rating = 2, Moderately low sensitivity

Effects of Project Facilities

The Thermalito Afterbay Dam is visibly on the horizon in the middleground and has a moderately negative effect.

Rating = 2, Moderately negative effect

Effect of Project Operations

The waters of the Thermalito Afterbay have a positive effect.

Rating = 5, Positive effect

Glare and Lighting

Rating = NA

Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway

The Larkin Road Thermalito Afterbay Car-top Boat Ramp KOP is not in view of a designated scenic roadway, nor does it have a view of any designated scenic vista.

Rating = NA

Opportunities and Constraints

No recommendations made.

Table B-19: Summary of KOP TA-1: Larkin Road Car Top Boat Ramp	
Concern/Question	Evaluation Summary
Description/character	Exposed, flat recreation site with average visitation.
Number of viewers	(3) Moderate
Sensitivity of viewers	(2) Moderately low
Effects of Project Generation – Transmission Facilities	(2) Moderately negative
Effect of Project operations (reservoir elevation)	(5) Positive
Glare and Lighting	NA
Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway	NA
Opportunities and Constraints	No recommendations made.

KOP TA-2: Monument Hill Day Use Area

Description / Character

The Monument Hill Day Use Area is located south of Highway 162 at the elevated north end of the Thermalito Afterbay. The KOP is immediately north of the beach area. The Monument Hill facility contains a large amount of paved and gravel parking, restrooms, a beach, picnic tables, barbeque pits, and a boat ramp. A small hill on the south side of the Afterbay, as well as the slightly sloping hillside down to the water, provides a minor amount of vertical relief to the otherwise very flat surrounding topography of the Sacramento Valley. Vegetation is visible along the bank of the Afterbay, yet it is not a dominant visual feature in the viewshed. The small eastern spur of the Afterbay, where the Monument Hill Day Use Area is located, is visible immediately south of this KOP, while the expansive main body of the Afterbay is visible as it extends to the west. The view of the Thermalito Afterbay is not necessarily unique from this KOP, yet the amount of recreational development visible from this KOP is not seen anywhere else around the Afterbay. The recreational, manmade features that are visible include numerous picnic tables, a boat dock, cement informational poles, and buoys that designate a swimming-only area.

Number of Viewers

According to the *Vehicular Access Study* (R-1), the Monument Hill Day Use Area receives a high amount of visitation.

Rating = 5, High visitation

Sensitivity of Viewers

There are numerous recreational facilities at the Monument Hill Day Use Area, which enables visitors to experience a view similar to that shown in this KOP for extended periods of time.

Rating = 4, Moderately high sensitivity

Effects of Project Facilities

The Thermalito Afterbay Dam is visible in the middleground and has a moderately negative effect.

Rating = 2, Moderately negative effect

Effect of Project Operations

The presence of the Afterbay water has a positive effect.

Rating = 5, Positive effect

Glare and Lighting

There are permanent lighting structures at this recreation facility that influence night-time views and have a neutral effect.

Rating = 3, Neutral effect

Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway

The Monument Hill Day Use Area KOP is not in view of a designated scenic roadway, nor does it have a view of any designated scenic vista.

Rating = NA

Opportunities and Constraints

No recommendations made.

Table B-20: Summary of KOP TA-2: Monument Hill Day Use Area	
Concern/Question	Evaluation Summary
Description/character	Highly developed recreation area with high visitation.
Number of viewers	(5) High
Sensitivity of viewers	(4) Moderately high
Effects of Project Generation – Transmission Facilities	(2) Moderately negative
Effect of Project operations (reservoir elevation)	(5) Positive
Glare and Lighting	(3) Neutral
Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway	NA
Opportunities and Constraints	No recommendations made.

KOP TA-3: Highway 99 Fish Hatchery/Levee

Description / Character

The Highway 99 Fish Hatchery/Levee KOP is located on the eastern side of Highway 99, approximately 200 feet to the northeast of the KOP. The Thermalito Afterbay Dam parallels Highway 99 for the extent of this view. The view from the Highway 99 Fish Hatchery/Dam KOP shows very little vertical relief. Besides the manmade Thermalito Afterbay Levee, the only natural vertical elements in the viewshed are the Sierra Nevada foothills in the distant background view to the north. Short grass cover is on the eastern and western shoulders of Highway 99, and a small patch of trees immediately north of the Fish Hatchery structure constitutes the existing vegetation. No water is visible from this KOP. When traveling on the west side of the Thermalito Afterbay, the view represented by this KOP is very common, with the exception of the Fish Hatchery to the east. Besides the Fish Hatchery, the other manmade features visible from this KOP include Highway 99, the row of transmission (distribution) poles and lines paralleling the highway, and the Thermalito Afterbay Dam itself.

Number of Viewers

Highway 99 is a major north-south transportation route in northern California and receives a high amount of use, therefore providing the view seen from this KOP to a high amount of travelers.

Rating = 5, High visitation

Sensitivity of Viewers

This KOP shows a view that is typical for someone driving on Highway 99, which is assumed to be of a very short duration.

Rating = 1, Low sensitivity

Effects of Project Facilities

The dam is visible in the foreground and has a negative effect, as does the fish hatchery.

Rating = 1, Negative effect

Effect of Project Operations

NA

Glare and Lighting

Rating = NA

Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway

The Highway 99 Fish Hatchery/Dam KOP is not located along a designated scenic roadway, nor does it have a view of any designated scenic vista.

Rating = NA

Opportunities and Constraints

Consider vegetative plantings (trees and shrubs) placed on the eastern side of Highway 99 to provide visual relief for the dam and “soften” the fish hatchery.

Table B-21: Summary of KOP TA-3: Highway 99 Fish Hatchery/Levee	
Concern/Question	Evaluation Summary
Description/character	Typical view from Highway 99 driving next to the Thermalito Afterbay Dam.
Number of viewers	(5) High
Sensitivity of viewers	(1) Low
Effects of Project Generation – Transmission Facilities	(1) Negative
Effect of Project operations (reservoir elevation)	NA
Glare and Lighting	NA
Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway	NA
Opportunities and Constraints	Consider adding vegetation.

BYPASS REACH – LOW FLOW CHANNEL - OWA

KOP BR-1: Feather River Nature Center

Description / Character

The Feather River Nature Center is located along the Low Flow Channel of the Feather River immediately below the Fish Barrier Dam and Thermalito Diversion Dam. The Nature Center is accessed via Table Mountain Boulevard and is several hundred feet upstream from its crossing of the Feather River. The KOP for this site is on the north side of the unpaved access road. The view from this KOP shows a large amount of vertical relief. This KOP is located along the Feather River canyon floor, and has a view to the north that clearly shows South Table Mountain. There is a large amount, and wide range, of vegetation visible from this KOP, including riparian and hillside vegetation. Water is a main visual feature from this KOP; the calm water in the immediate foreground contrasts with a waterfall flowing over the Fish Barrier Dam slightly farther in the distance. The view from this KOP incorporates the Feather River, two dams, the South Table Mountain (which is a recognizable feature for the surrounding community), large amounts of vegetation, and a mix between natural and manmade features. The manmade features visible include the Feather River Fish Hatchery, the Fish Barrier Dam, the Diversion Dam, and an access roadway for the Feather River Nature Center, which all fit in well visually with the surrounding environment.

Number of Viewers

According to the Feather River Recreation and Parks Department, the Nature Center receives a low amount of annual visitation. Much of this has to do with the lack of parking and the non-obvious access road.

Rating = 1, Low visitation

Sensitivity of Viewers

There is a long duration view for those that visit this KOP, due to the area having a walking trail, as well as benches to enjoy the view.

Rating = 5, High sensitivity

Effects of Project Facilities

The Thermalito Diversion Dam, Fish Barrier Dam, and Feather River Fish Hatchery are visible from this KOP. There are no visible Project transmission facilities.

Rating = 4, Moderately positive effect for fish barrier dam

Rating = 2, Moderately negative effect for Thermalito Diversion Dam and Feather River Fish Hatchery

Effect of Project Operations

Rating = 3, Neutral effect

Glare and Lighting Associated With the Project

The night-lighting that has an effect on this KOP comes from the Feather River Fish Hatchery to the northwest and from the City of Oroville to the south.

Rating = 2, Moderately negative effect

Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway

The Feather River Nature Center KOP is not in view of a designated or eligible scenic roadway, nor does it have a view of any designated scenic vista. The view from this KOP is of such high quality, it should be established as a scenic vista.

Rating = NA

Opportunities and Constraints

Revegetation of the engineered fill slope directly next to the parking lot of the Feather River Fish Hatchery, on the western side of the Feather River, along with other plantings (native) would make the hatchery more attractive and fit in better with its visual environment. In addition, using shielded or directional lights at this facility would improve the visual quality from this KOP and nearby areas by reducing the amount of light viewed at the facility.

Table B-22: Summary of KOP BR-1: Feather River Nature Center	
Concern/Question	Evaluation Summary
Description/character	Recreation site with low visitation.
Number of viewers	(1) Low
Sensitivity of viewers	(5) High
Effects of Project Generation – Transmission Facilities	(2) Moderately negative effect for Thermalito Diversion Dam (4) Moderately positive effect for Fish Barrier Dam
Effect of Project operations (reservoir elevation)	NA
Glare and Lighting Associated With the Project	(2) Moderately negative effect (fish hatchery)
Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway	NA
Opportunities and Constraints	New and additional planting around the fish hatchery facility would make it more attractive as would reworking the facility's outside lighting.

KOP BR-2: Thermalito Afterbay Outlet

Description / Character

The Thermalito Afterbay Outlet KOP is located within the Oroville Wildlife Area (OWA) where the Thermalito Afterbay releases water into the Feather River. The KOP is located at the top of the unpaved road that leads to the Thermalito Afterbay concrete spillway structure. A good deal of vegetation along the river and in the OWA is visible from this KOP. The Feather River is a major feature in the view due to its large size and the rush of water being released into it via the Thermalito Afterbay outlet. The manmade features visible from this KOP include the concrete Thermalito Afterbay outlet, as well as the levee on the opposite side (southern) of the Feather River.

Number of Viewers

According to various recreation studies, the amount of visitation at the Thermalito Afterbay outlet is average.

Rating = 3, Moderate visitation

Sensitivity of Viewers

People that experience the view from this KOP are mainly overnight campers, day use recreationists, and anglers. Users who launch boats from this location would only experience short duration views, yet the remaining visitors would have long duration views.

Rating = 3, Average sensitivity

Effects of Project Facilities

The Thermalito Afterbay Dam and outlet are visible in the foreground from this KOP and have a negative effect.

Rating = 1, Negative effect

Effect of Project Operations

Release from the Afterbay into the Feather River can be spectacular. Overall, the effect of the release is considered to be neutral.

Rating = 3, Neutral effect

Glare and Lighting

Rating = NA

Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway

The Thermalito Afterbay Outlet KOP is not in view of a designated scenic roadway, nor does it have a view of any designated scenic vista.

Rating = NA

Opportunities and Constraints

No recommendations made.

Table B-23: Summary KOP BR-2: Thermalito Afterbay Outlet	
Concern/Question	Evaluation Summary
Description/character	Average recreation site with average visitation; however, it is one of the best fishing spots in Oroville.
Number of viewers	(3) Moderate
Sensitivity of viewers	(3) Average
Effects of Project Generation – Transmission Facilities	(1) Negative effect
Effect of Project operations (reservoir elevation)	(3) Neutral effect
Glare and Lighting	NA
Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway	NA
Opportunities and Constraints	No recommendations made.

KOP OWA-1: One-Mile Campground (North)

Description / Character

The One-Mile Campground is directly north of One-Mile Pond. The campground consists of a small, flat gravel area used for RV camping. Access to this location is via a dirt and gravel road, controlled and maintained by DFG. The view from this KOP shows essentially no vertical relief. There is a large amount of vegetation visible around the shoreline of the pond to the south. Water is the main visual element from this KOP, as it extends from the foreground southeast into the distance. There are very few camping areas within the OWA; therefore, this is one of the only places to experience a view such as this from a designated camping area. When driving around One-Mile Pond, almost all views are similar to the one from this KOP. The developed campground at this location is shown in the KOP, including the trash cans, portable toilet, and gravel packed parking area.

Number of Viewers

According to the *Vehicular Access Study* (R-1), the OWA One-Mile Campground receives a low amount of annual visitation.

Rating = 1, Low visitation

Sensitivity of Viewers

The majority of people that experience the view from this KOP have extended duration views. Even though not legally allowed, this area has become an area where people camp for several days and even weeks.

Rating = 5, High sensitivity

Effects of Project Facilities

No Project generation or transmission facilities are visible from this KOP.

Rating = NA

Effect of Project Operations

Rating = NA

Glare and Lighting

Rating = NA

Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway

The OWA One-Mile Campground (North) KOP is not in view of a designated scenic roadway, nor does it have a view of any designated scenic vista.

Rating = NA

Opportunities and Constraints

No recommendations made.

Table B-24: Summary KOP OWA-1: 1-Mile Campground (North)	
Concern/Question	Evaluation Summary
Description/character	Inadequately developed recreation area with low visitation.
Number of viewers	(1) Low
Sensitivity of viewers	(5) High
Effects of Project Generation – Transmission Facilities	NA
Effect of Project operations (reservoir elevation)	NA
Glare and Lighting	NA
Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway	NA
Opportunities and Constraints	No recommendations made.

KOP OWA-2: Bird Viewing Area

Description / Character

The OWA Bird Viewing Area KOP is located approximately 0.75 mile east of the Thermalito Afterbay outlet. The KOP is on an elevated access roadway that provides panoramic views to the south, where the majority of birds congregate, providing only a minimal amount of vertical relief into the viewshed. The main vertical elements are the tall trees in the foreground to the south. No water is visible from this KOP. When driving along this access road through the OWA, the view from this KOP is similar to that seen along the entire roadway, when looking south. Besides the access road itself, there are no manmade features visible from this KOP, when looking south.

Number of Viewers

According to the *Vehicular Access Study* (R-1), the OWA Bird Viewing Area receives a low amount of annual visitation.

Rating = 1, Low visitation

Sensitivity of Viewers

People that experience the view from this KOP are either those who come to enjoy the view of the birds for a considerable amount of time, or those who simply drive by.

Rating = 5, High sensitivity

Effects of Project Facilities

No Project generation or transmission facilities are visible from this KOP.

Rating = NA

Effect of Project Operations

Rating = NA

Glare and Lighting

Rating = NA

Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway

The OWA Bird Viewing Area KOP is not in view of a designated scenic roadway, nor does it have a view of any designated scenic vista.

Rating = NA

Opportunities and Constraints

Better designed signage could direct people to bird viewing locations. A barrier or fence surrounding a newly created designated parking area could control vehicular use and limit damage caused by vehicles, which would improve aesthetic/visual conditions.

Table B-25: Summary of KOP OWA-2: Bird Viewing Area	
Concern/Question	Evaluation Summary
Description/character	Underdeveloped recreation area with low visitation.
Number of viewers	(1) Low
Sensitivity of viewers	(5) High
Effects of Project Generation – Transmission Facilities	NA
Effect of Project operations (reservoir elevation)	NA
Glare and Lighting	NA
Influence on Scenic Vista/Highway	NA
Opportunities and Constraints	Consider new signage and parking.